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Keeping in mind the subordinate title of Part I., *Absolutismus und Parlamentarismus*, we understand why the author, after having dealt with absolute monarchy in France, turns to England to study the beginnings of parliamentary government. To this subject two chapters are devoted, one giving an account of the struggle between the Stuart kings and Parliament, the other dealing with the same struggle in the realm of political theory. From England the author again turns to France to make in the two following chapters a study of the incipient reaction against absolute monarchy as seen in the writers of the period and in the political struggles of the Regency. Characteristic is the detailed account of the struggle between the Regent and the Parliament of Paris and of Law's financial scheme. The remaining four chapters of the first part deal with England under Walpole and France under Fleury, an extended account being given of the political philosophy of Bolingbroke and of Montesquieu.

The first three chapters of the second part deal with France under Louis XV., the first describing the struggles between him and the parliaments, the second expounding the constitution of France according to the view of the parliaments, and the third treating of Rousseau as the founder of democracy. It will be seen that the author is true to his method of studying political ideas in connection with the soil in which they germinate. The five following chapters are given to England and its American colonies, the study of the democratic transformation which English institutions had undergone in the new world preparing the way for the three closing chapters dealing with France under Louis XVI., political ideas in France before the Revolution and the Constitution of 1791. A third part, now in preparation, is to trace the constitutional development of England and France down to 1848, while in a fourth part the author proposes to deal with Germany as he has already dealt with England and France, and to bring the constitutional development of the three countries down to the present day.

The book before us has sterling merit. It is painstaking and thorough, and its pages are packed with information. The method of studying political theories together with the political situation in which they are developed and the political facts for which they stand is attractive. The plan makes it necessary that a large number of subjects should be treated in brief space, but subject to this limitation the author has given us a useful book.

RICHARD HUDSON.

Histoire Générale du IV^e Siècle à nos Jours. Publiée sous la direction de MM. ERNEST LAVISSE et ALFRED RAMBAUD. Tome VIII. La Révolution Française (1789-1799). (Paris: Armand Colin et Cie. 1896. Pp. 992.)

Études et Leçons sur la Révolution Française. Par F. A. AULARD. Seconde Série. (Paris: Félix Alcan. 1898. Pp. 308.)

M. F. A. AULARD is incontestably the greatest living authority upon the history of the French Revolution. He has done more than any

other scholar to treat the period from a strictly scientific and historic point of view, and he may be regarded as typical of the group of students, who are now laboring to discover the true sequence of facts during the most dramatic period of French history. For three generations the French Revolution has served as the chief issue in French politics. Its history has been written with the purpose in view of accrediting or condemning French political parties and the ascertaining of the truth has been regarded as of comparatively little importance. The Revolution to Frenchmen and, indeed, to all Europeans, is the starting point for the discussion of modern politics, and it is not until quite recently that the touchstones of modern historical science have been tried for the purpose of acquiring a knowledge of its events as they really happened. Now old legends are being cleared away and the history of the French Revolution is being examined as critically and as impartially as the history of the Middle Ages. M. Aulard is the recognized chief of this movement. Although frankly an admirer of the Revolution, regarding it as the period in which all that is noblest in modern France has its rise, he is yet a real scholar and does not allow his enthusiasm to warp the candor of his mind. As Professor of the History of the French Revolution at the Sorbonne, as secretary of the Société de la Révolution Française and editor of its monthly review and other publications, M. Aulard has done yeoman service in bringing into existence a sane, historical standpoint for the study of revolutionary history. He has not undertaken, like the rhapsodists of the last generation, like Carlyle and Michelet, to write a long and elaborate history of the period, but has deliberately preferred to confine himself mainly to the editing of documents of prime importance. It is not too much to say that M. Aulard by his editions of the Register of the Committee of Public Safety and of the Proceedings of the Jacobin Club has for the first time made it possible for students to understand the nature and events of the Reign of Terror and the history of the famous club which did so much to mould public opinion in revolutionary France. He has been too much occupied with teaching, reviewing, and editing to undertake the writing of a secondary history on a large scale, though his monographs on the Orators of the Revolution and on the Worship of Reason clearly prove his ability to accomplish that much needed work, the writing of a real history of the French Revolution based on facts and not on fancies.

The nearest thing to a consecutive history of the French Revolution that M. Aulard has permitted himself is the contribution of four chapters on the Constituent Assembly, the Legislative Assembly, the internal history of the National Convention and the internal history of the Directory, to the great *Histoire Générale* of MM. Lavisé and Rambaud, now in course of publication. It is not too much to say that these four chapters form the best brief account of the French Revolution, based on modern authorities, and treated with critical skill by a master of his subject, in the French language. M. Edme Champion, who contributed the first chapter of the Revolutionary volume of the *Histoire Générale*, a chapter

on the cahiers, has worked up his researches for this chapter into a volume, and it is to be hoped that M. Aulard, now that he has his skeleton in print, may follow the example of his colleague. The words just used are those of high praise and may seem exaggerated, but the fact remains that the labors of M. Aulard himself have made so thoroughly out of date all previous volumes upon the Revolution that such a book as he alone can write is urgently called for. It is especially fortunate that the scheme of the *Histoire Générale* provides for the appending of lists of primary authorities and important secondary works to each chapter, so that M. Aulard's great bibliographical knowledge of his subject has been used to advantage.

To the historical scholar, M. Aulard's chapters form the chief attraction of the volume of the *Histoire Générale* that contains them, but it would be unfair not to say a few words about the work of other contributors. M. Vast, following the authoritative work of M. Albert Sorel, has written an able chapter on the war between France and Europe from 1792 to 1795, and in collaboration with M. Rambaud, the same author has treated the wars of the Directory. Chapters of varying value are contributed by different less-known authorities on the legislative work of the Revolution, on the Church, on education, on literature, on art, and on political economy in France during the period. The Revolution is so distinctly the central feature of the decade, that the history of other countries takes a smaller place than in the previous volumes of the great history, but special reference should be made to M. Rambaud's excellent chapter on Eastern Europe to 1796, and to M. Pingaud's brief chapter on Italy and M. de Crue's still briefer chapter on Switzerland. The chapter on England is, as in the previous volumes, quite inadequate, as can be seen by a glance at the very poor bibliography of works consulted appended to it. M. Moireau is a little more thorough in his chapter on America from 1781 to 1799, in which he devotes forty-five pages to the formation of the Federal government and its early policy.

So much has been said of the excellence of M. Aulard's work in the *Histoire Générale* that it is perhaps appropriate here to draw attention to the second series of *Études et Leçons sur la Révolution Française* which he has just published. This little volume contains seven articles which have appeared in various periodicals and a lecture upon Auguste Comte and the French Revolution. The lecture is particularly interesting; it is a refutation of the ridiculous theory of Comte that there were during the Revolution three distinct schools of disciples of Voltaire, of Diderot and of Rousseau. This was one of the pet theories of the Positivist teacher, who loved to twist history to suit his imagination, and it is to be feared that its influence has extended outside of Positivist circles and has given a false color to the distinction between the politicians of the Revolutionary period. It may be admitted that Robespierre was a fervent disciple of Rousseau, but the attempt of Comte to glorify Danton by making him an obedient echo of the supposed political theories of Diderot instead of considering him as a great patriotic opportunist, is demonstrably false.

Of the reprinted articles, the most noteworthy for the historian are M. Aulard's skillful studies of the causes and the sequel of the *coup d'état* of 18 Brumaire. It was hardly necessary for him to reprint his article on the authenticity of the so-called Memoirs of Talleyrand, for all scholars are aware, thanks to him and M. Flammermont, of the exact amount of credit they deserve.

H. MORSE STEPHENS.

Mémoires et Notes de Choudieu (1761-1838). Publiés d'après les papiers de l'auteur avec une préface et des remarques par VICTOR BARRUCAND. (Paris: E. Plon, Nourrit et Cie. 1897. Pp. xv, 484.)

M. VICTOR BARRUCAND has done good service to students of the history of the French Revolution in publishing the memoirs of Choudieu. The existence of Choudieu's papers in the public library of Angers has long been known; a selection from them was published in the *Revue de la Révolution* some years ago; and their present editor made considerable use of them in his valuable book on Rossignol. It is, however, a great advantage to have collected together in a handy volume everything from Choudieu's pen of real historical value. M. Barrucand explains in his preface that the papers which he has worked up are rather notes for an autobiography with scattered criticisms on other works than memoirs in the true sense of the word. Undoubtedly Choudieu at one time intended to write a complete autobiography, but the work was never finished, and the notes and papers now published are rather materials for memoirs than a consecutive account of the events in which Choudieu played a part.

Pierre Choudieu is one of the striking figures in the Reign of Terror. He was never a great political leader or an important statesman, but he was one of the valiant deputies to the National Convention sent forth, in the days of the greatest peril to France, to organize the armies of the Republic and to lead them to victory. Born at Angers, of a legal family, in 1761, Choudieu was educated at the military school at Metz, and became an officer in the artillery. He was speedily disgusted by the contempt shown in the army to those officers who were not of noble birth, and, abandoning the military profession, he entered the magistracy of his native city, and became one of the King's advocates there. The early years of the Revolution found him an enthusiastic adherent of the new ideas, and in 1791 he was elected by the department of the Maine-et-Loire to the Legislative Assembly. As a deputy, he associated with the party of the extreme Left, and won for himself some little reputation, especially as a member of the Military Committee. The earliest notes published by M. Barrucand have reference to the opening of Choudieu's career. His account of the revolutionary influences in Angers and of his military and legal experiences is interesting, but his notes upon the